

NEMOPHILA MICROCALYX, AN INCORRECT NAME

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Rafinesque's much-maligned *Florula Ludoviciana* (Rafinesque, 1817) is essentially an abridged, English and Latin version of Robin's *Flore Louisianaise* (Robin, 1807) (for an eloquent defense of the *Florula* see Shinnars, 1957). The *Flore*, an account of the plants observed by Robin during his travels in Louisiana, is arranged according to the Jussieu system and contains descriptions (made, according to Robin, from living plants) and notes on uses and habitat. The plants are referred to largely by French names, but often a Latin generic name or binomial is added. Among the latter are, to quote Rafinesque, "numerous misnames." After studying the *Flore*, Rafinesque "became convinced that a great number of new genera and species" were included therein. He then produced the *Florula*, associating some of Robin's plants with previously published Latin names and supplying new names — 196 specific epithets, 30 generic names — for those he considered undescribed. Most of the new names were validly published. Many of them are, however, later names for the taxa involved. But the epithets for several species are the earliest available. Some of these, in recent years, have been adopted; others, even though correct under the International Code, have not been. One of these concerns us here. *Hydrophyllum trilobum* Raf. has been considered to be a synonym of *H. appendiculatum* Michx., an unfortunate disposition that originated with Asa Gray and that was uncritically followed by Constance (1942), Ewan (1967), and Merrill (1949). Such a disposition is, however, patently untenable on several counts, the most telling being one of geography. *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* is known to approach no closer than about 250 miles to Louisiana, and so it is most unlikely that this species was seen there by Robin. Additionally, Rafinesque's description of the leaves of *H. trilobum* as "trilobis, crenatis" and of the flowers as "white" certainly

does not suggest *H. appendiculatum*. What Louisiana plant, then, fits Rafinesque's protologue? This question is easily answered: unequivocally the species currently known as *Nemophila microcalyx* (Nuttall) Fischer et Meyer, a woodland annual that is widely distributed in the state — especially in the southern portion where Robin did most of his traveling. The Rafinesquian epithet *trilobum* predates by 20 years the Nuttallian epithet *microcalyx* and thus must replace it. The correct name and pertinent synonymy for the species are given below.

Nemophila triloba (Rafinesque) Thieret, comb. nov.

Hydrophyllum trilobum Rafinesque, Fl. Ludov. 33. 1817.

Ellisia microcalyx Nuttall, Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc., N. S., 5: 191. 1837.

Nemophila microcalyx (Nuttall) Fischer et Meyer, Sert. Petrop., t. 8. 1846.

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